TRAVEL: THE BEST DEALS FOR SKIING IN THE EMPIRE STATE {page 20}

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BOSTON
Tuesday, December 18, 2012

GETTY IMAGES

Newtown. Funerals

▶ Veronika Pozner, right, mother of Noah Pozner, arrives for her son's funeral. Tiny caskets marked the first two funerals of massacre victims, which began yesterday. Students Noah Pozner and Jack Pinto, both 6, were laid to rest. {page 08}

Guilty verdict in Mattapan massacre, life sentence today

- Dwayne Moore fatally shot four people, including a 2-year-old, in 2010
- Verdict a win for prosecutors after mistrial
- Due to get life without parole {page 02}

'best of' series

Best of 2012: Culture & nightlife

- Metro looks at the best watering holes, cocktail crafters and least likely fun neighborhoods {pages 12-13}

By the numbers

27

The alleged rogue chemist who tampered with potentially thousands of criminal drug cases at a state lab was indicted yesterday on 27 charges. Annie Dookhan, 34, of Franklin was indicted by a grand jury on charges including tampering with evidence and obstruction of justice, according to Attorney General Martha Coakley's office. She will be arraigned Thursday. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Love that the #MBTA finally did something right with these T countdown screens! #BostonGirl Solutions"

@NICOLEGETSMONEY WAS REALLY EXCITED TO FIND OUT WHEN HER RIDE WAS APPROACHING.

In the news

▶ The suspect

T police search for man accused of pleasuring himself on the Green Line

BOSTON. T officials released a photograph yesterday of a man who allegedly masturbated in front of a 25-year-old woman as she stood on the inbound Green Line platform at Beaconsfield Station in Brookline last month.

The photograph shows a man who police describe as "white or Hispanic, in his early- to mid-20s wearing a red T-shirt with an American flag printed on it."

If found, he would be charged with open and gross lewdness and lascivious behavior. METRO

State fines firm over Facebook IPO

MASSACHUSETTS. Morgan Stanley & Co. was fined by the state for an investment banker's improper conduct related to Facebook's initial public offering.

The investment company was fined $5 million yesterday by Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin, according to Galvin's office.

Galvin accused a senior investment banker with the company of improper influence over research analysts prior to the initial public offering. Morgan Stanley was the lead underwriter for Facebook's IPO. METRO

$5M

Total Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin fined the investment company yesterday, according to Galvin's office

First day on the job: Scott talks of T funding, cleanliness and riders

It was drizzly, dreary and very early yesterday as Beverly Scott greeted T riders at State Station, but that didn't keep her from being chipper.

Scott arrived in Boston from Atlanta on Saturday, apparently revved and ready to tackle her new job as general manager of the MBTA.

"At first I thought there was going to be snow, and I was ready for it. I am ready to hit the ground running," she said before waving and saying "good morning" to busy T passengers hustling by, half asleep.

Scott joined Jonathan Davis, who served as acting general manager for the past 17 months, and MassDOT CEO Richard Davey at State Station to mark the activation of new countdown signs at 24 stations along the Blue and Orange lines. She also made good on a promise that if hired, she would spend her first days on the job getting to know the transit system, and its customers.

By 8 a.m. she had chatted up a T rider who called himself a "monkey expert."

"What are the odds of that? He is one of the top monkey experts in the United States. He's Mr. Monkey Business," she said. "He was my first customer contact for the day."

After shaking a few hands at State Station, Scott headed down to Chinatown Station. While en route, she sat next to a Metro reader and introduced herself as the T's new general manager.

▶ When asked about her impression of the T, Scott said the customers were friendly and that she was impressed with the cleanliness of the system.

Scott seemed optimistic about her new venture heading up the cash-strapped transit agency, but admitted that funding it will be her biggest obstacle.

"Funding is always a major challenge. It is a challenge for every single transportation system across the country," she said. "Winding up, yes I'm going to be very much involved in helping to support and do everything I can, and I think I'll bring lots of different perspectives on funding and tools, but the key thing is working with the team to make sure that we always keep No. 1 in mind: that we are a customer service business. We provide a service, so we want to provide the best service that we can every single day. Every single one of those dollars that come in, we're doing the best we can to deliver."

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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Countdown signs

Here's what you need to know about the countdown signs that Scott unveiled yesterday:

- The first countdown signs were unveiled in August at South Station, letting T riders know when the next train will arrive.
- Activation of new countdown signs at 24 stations along the Blue and Orange Lines yesterday brought the total to 190 signs in 30 stations.
- The total cost for the signs systemwide was a little more than $700,000.
- The majority of the Blue, Orange and Red Line stations now have the signs, which transit officials describe as "highly visible" and "highly accurate."

Quoted

"You can have all the money in the world, but you earn your stripes every day in terms of the quality of service that you put out on the street."

BEVERLY SCOTT, MBTA GENERAL MANAGER

Moore gets guilty verdict in Mattapan massacre trial

A 35-year-old man will be sentenced to life without parole this morning after a jury found him guilty of killing four people in one of the most horrific crimes in recent Boston history.

After three days of deliberations, a jury yesterday found Dwayne Moore guilty of four counts of first-degree murder, armed robbery and home invasion. He was acquitted on charges of armed assault with intent to murder, aggravated assault, and illegal gun possession, according to the Suffolk district attorney's office.

TED FITZGERALD/POOL

▶ Moore reacts.

Moore fatally shot four people, including a 2-year-old and his mother, during a home invasion and robbery in Mattapan in 2010.

Mayor Thomas Menino said in a statement that he hopes the verdict brings comfort to the families of the victims.

"The fact remains, however, that from Mattapan to Newtown, gun violence is a cancer infecting our society. As mayor I have seen too many lives ended and forever altered, and we should not have to endure one more senseless tragedy before we have a national policy on guns that takes away the loopholes in the laws and removes automatic weapons from our neighborhoods," Menino said.

It was the second trial for Moore after his first trial earlier this year ended with a deadlocked jury.

The verdict was a win for prosecutors who failed to secure a conviction in the first trial. In that trial, Moore's alleged accomplice, Edward Washington, was acquitted and a jury could not come to a decision on Moore's involvement.

The result of that trial sparked outrage from victims' family members. METRO/MN

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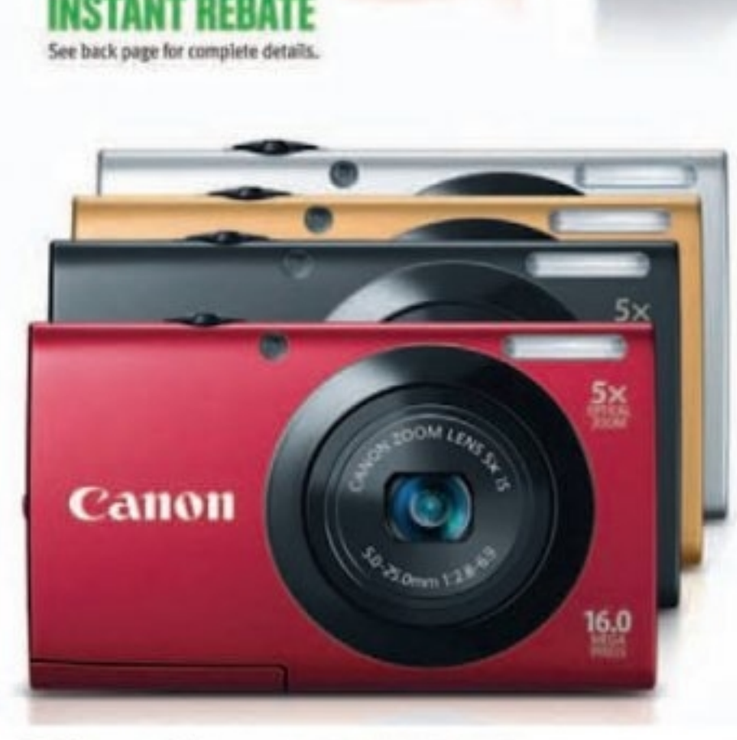

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Reporting those dead rats, filled trash cans just got a little easier

That sidewalk trash can that hasn't been emptied in a while and that tree limb that looks like its about to fall will soon be easier to report.

Dozens of communities across the state will soon launch their own versions of Boston's popular Citizens Connect mobile app. State and Boston officials announced the launch of Commonwealth Connect yesterday and said 35 cities and towns will debut the app around next March.

"We have to change the way we do business. We have to do everything we can to be relentlessly focused on improving service at lower cost, and that's what this program is all about," said Jay Gonzalez, the state secretary of Administration and Finance. "This project is the epitome of everything we're trying to do and encourage in making government work better."

Cities and towns including Braintree, Everett, Malden, Melrose and Somerville will get the app for free for three years though a state grant program.

The app allows users to photograph stuffed trash cans, potholes, graffiti, broken signs and other quality-of-life issues and submit a report using their smartphone. The report then goes to the department that handles the issues; the user gets a status update as the report is received and rectified.

In Boston, where the app debuted, residents have reported tens of thousands of issues that have been addressed.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

Rogue reports

While many of the reports sent in by people on Citizens Connect are legitimate concerns over parking issues, trash and signs, other people have taken advantage of the service.

Last year a person submitted a report of a sighting of the McDonald's Grimace character in Dorchester. More recently, someone complained about a flag not being at an appropriate height.

Bill Oates, the city's chief information officer, said Boston handles a tremendous volume of service requests through the app and said the rogue requests make up a small portion. He said smaller cities and towns should not have a problem with the rogue submissions.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Gonzalez

By the numbers

2009
Launch of Boston's Citizens Connect app

35,000
Number of neighborhood issues resolved because of the app

20%
Amount of quality of life requests that come in to the city through the app

In the news

City begins process examining location of pot dispensaries

Thinking about opening up a marijuana dispensary in Boston as soon as the clock strikes midnight Jan. 1? Well, slow down.

The Boston Redevelopment Authority recently gave its approval to a text amendment that classifies marijuana medical treatment centers as forbidden uses in all city districts. That is until the state puts forth its regulations on the centers.

With medical marijuana set to become legal Jan. 1, cities like Boston are trying to determine where dispensaries going to go. Although it becomes legal in January, the state has until May to draw up regulations governing what is sure to be a new Bay State business.

Until a final regulation is voted on, dispensaries wanting to open up in Boston would have to get a variance and go through a lengthy public process before opening.

The issue was the subject of a City Council committee hearing yesterday.

City Councilor Rob Consalvo said the city is not trying to target zone the dispensaries. He said the council understands that it has to be consistent with medical use and the locations need to be accessible and near public transportation.

"We want to ... have real zoning regulations in place that ... respect the neighborhoods and the law." METRO

▶ The zoning board is set to take up the issue in January.

Definition

At its meeting last week, the Boston Redevelopment Authority approved the definition of a Marijuana Medical Treatment Center:

"Marijuana Medical Treatment Center, a not-for-profit entity registered under M.G.L. Chapter 94G Section 6 that acquires, possesses, cultivates, manufactures, delivers, transfers, transports, supplies, sells and/or dispenses marijuana and/or related supplies and educational materials to registered qualifying patients and their registered primary caregivers who have designated it as one of the patient's registered medical treatment center."

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The first Newtown funerals take place

Mourners in Newtown, Conn., headed for the first two of 20 funerals of schoolchildren massacred in their classroom as the rest of the nation anxiously sent children back to school yesterday with tightened security.

Within hours of the school day starting, lockdowns were declared in nearby Connecticut and New York towns. In New Jersey, one high school's morning announcements included an added warning not to let strangers into the building.

Newtown's schools remained closed yesterday, the first academic day since the 20-year-old gunman claimed 28 lives, including his mother's and his own.

Tiny caskets marked the first wave of funerals for the 20 children and six adults killed in the shooting rampage at Sandy Hook Elementary School on Friday. Noah Pozner and Jack Pinto, both 6 years old, will be laid to rest on Monday afternoon.

Their funerals come a day after President Barack Obama visited Newtown to comfort the families. Obama's remarks were heralded on Monday morning by relatives of teacher Victoria Soto, 27, who was killed as she tried to protect her first-grade students.

"He really made us feel like she really was a hero and that everyone should know it," her brother, Carlos Soto, told "CBS This Morning."

All the dead children were 6 or 7 years old. The school principal of Sandy Hook Elementary, the school psychologist and four teachers were also gunned down.

Noah was the youngest victim of rampage, and his twin sister, Arielle, escaped unhurt. The family's rabbi has said he encouraged Noah's mother to focus on her other four children amid the grief.

Jack was a wrestler who loved sports. The New York Giants receiver Victor Cruz played Sunday's football game with the boy's name written all over his cleats and gloves. **REUTERS**

Still closed

Schools remained closed in Newtown as faculty members met to decide when they would open again. To keep children occupied on a drizzling Monday, youth sports groups set up an indoor field day with arts and crafts, athletics and board games.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ A man speaks to his young son yesterday at the funeral for Jack Pinto, 6, one of the victims of the Dec. 14 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Conn.

School scares force some into lockdown mode

Cautious educators and police locked down schools at the first hint of trouble yesterday as nervous parents sent their kids back to school for the first time since the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

Educators fearful of "copycats" or troublemakers who might phone in empty threats grappled with how to respond and whether to discuss Friday's shootings with children.

Safety was balanced against concerns over frightening children unnecessarily. Politicians debated whether to fortify schools with armed guards.

At least three school districts near Newtown went into lockdown yesterday after a citizen reported a "suspicious person" at a train station near an elementary school in Ridgefield, about 20 miles from Sandy Hook Elementary School.

The lockdown was lifted about two hours later. **REUTERS**

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The sooner you get vaccinated with ZOSTAVAX, the better your chances of protecting yourself from Shingles. In fact, the ACIP* of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommends that appropriate adults 60 years of age and older get vaccinated to help prevent Shingles.

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Please read the Patient Information on the adjacent page for more detailed information.

*ACIP=Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

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VACC-1016603-0045 12/12

ABOUT ZOSTAVAX

ZOSTAVAX is a vaccine that is used for adults 50 years of age or older to prevent Shingles (also known as zoster).

Important Safety Information

- ZOSTAVAX does not protect everyone, so some people who get the vaccine may still get Shingles.
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- Talk to your health care professional if you plan to get ZOSTAVAX at the same time as PNEUMOVAX®23 (Pneumococcal Vaccine Polyvalent) because it may be better to get these vaccines at least 4 weeks apart.
- Possible side effects include redness, pain, itching, swelling, hard lump, warmth, or bruising at the injection site, as well as headache.
- ZOSTAVAX contains a weakened chickenpox virus. Tell your health care professional if you will be in close contact with newborn infants, someone who may be pregnant and has not had chickenpox or been vaccinated against chickenpox, or someone who has problems with their immune system. Your health care professional can tell you what situations you may need to avoid.

Before you get Shingles, get vaccinated.

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Patient Information about ZOSTAVAX® (pronounced "ZOS tah vax") Generic name: Zoster Vaccine Live 9989115

You should read this summary of information about ZOSTAVAX before you are vaccinated. If you have any questions about ZOSTAVAX after reading this page, you should ask your health care provider. This information does not take the place of talking about ZOSTAVAX with your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider. Only your health care provider can decide if ZOSTAVAX is right for you.

What is ZOSTAVAX and how does it work?
ZOSTAVAX is a vaccine that is used for adults 50 years of age or older to prevent shingles (also known as zoster).

ZOSTAVAX contains a weakened chickenpox virus (varicella-zoster virus).

ZOSTAVAX works by helping your immune system protect you from getting shingles.

If you do get shingles even though you have been vaccinated, ZOSTAVAX may help prevent the nerve pain that can follow shingles in some people. ZOSTAVAX does not protect everyone, so some people who get the vaccine may still get shingles.

ZOSTAVAX cannot be used to treat shingles, or the nerve pain that may follow shingles, once you have it.

What do I need to know about shingles and the virus that causes it?
Shingles is caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox. Once you have had chickenpox, the virus can stay in your nervous system for many years. For reasons that are not fully understood, the virus may become active again and give you shingles. Age and problems with the immune system may increase your chances of getting shingles.

Shingles is a rash that is usually on one side of the body. The rash begins as a cluster of small red spots that often blister. The rash can be painful. Shingles rashes usually last up to 30 days and, for most people, the pain associated with the rash lessens as it heals.

Who should not get ZOSTAVAX?
You should not get ZOSTAVAX if you:
- are allergic to any of its ingredients.
- are allergic to gelatin or neomycin.
- have a weakened immune system (for example, an immune deficiency, leukemia, lymphoma, or HIV/AIDS).
- take high doses of steroids by injection or by mouth.
- are pregnant or plan to get pregnant.

You should not get ZOSTAVAX to prevent chickenpox.

Children should not get ZOSTAVAX.

How is ZOSTAVAX given?
ZOSTAVAX is given as a single dose by injection under the skin.

What should I tell my health care provider before I get ZOSTAVAX?
You should tell your health care provider if you:
- have or have had any medical problems.
- take any medicines, including non-prescription medicines, and dietary supplements.
- have any allergies, including allergies to neomycin or gelatin.
- had an allergic reaction to another vaccine.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- are breast-feeding.

Tell your health care provider if you expect to be in close contact (including household contact) with newborn infants, someone who may be pregnant and has not had chickenpox or been vaccinated against chickenpox, or someone who has problems with their immune system. Your health care provider can tell you what situations you may need to avoid.

Can I get ZOSTAVAX with other vaccines?
Talk to your health care provider if you plan to get ZOSTAVAX at the same time as the flu vaccine.

Talk to your health care provider if you plan to get ZOSTAVAX at the same time as PNEUMOVAX®23 (Pneumococcal Vaccine Polyvalent) because it may be better to get these vaccines at least 4 weeks apart.

What are the possible side effects of ZOSTAVAX?
The most common side effects that people in the clinical studies reported after receiving the vaccine include:
- redness, pain, itching, swelling, hard lump, warmth, or bruising where the shot was given.
- headache

The following additional side effects have been reported with ZOSTAVAX:
- allergic reactions, which may be serious and may include difficulty in breathing or swallowing. If you have an allergic reaction, call your doctor right away.
- chickenpox
- fever
- hives at the injection site
- joint pain
- muscle pain
- nausea
- rash
- rash at the injection site
- swollen glands near the injection site (that may last a few days to a few weeks)

Tell your health care provider if you have any new or unusual symptoms after you receive ZOSTAVAX. For a complete list of side effects, ask your health care provider.

Call 1-800-986-8999 to report any exposure to ZOSTAVAX during pregnancy.

What are the ingredients of ZOSTAVAX?
Active Ingredient: a weakened form of the varicella-zoster virus.

Inactive Ingredients: sucrose, hydrolyzed porcine gelatin, sodium chloride, monosodium L-glutamate, sodium phosphate dibasic, potassium phosphate monobasic, potassium chloride.

This page summarizes important information about ZOSTAVAX. If you would like more information, talk to your health care provider or visit the website at www.ZOSTAVAX.com or call 1-800-622-4477.

Rx only

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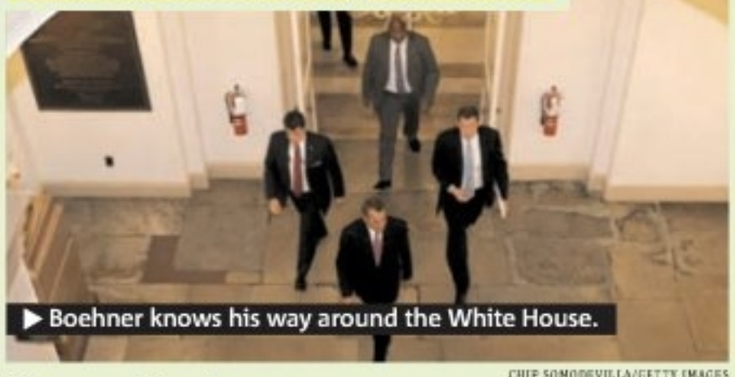
Cliff gets less steep; watch out for elephants

Obama, Boehner taking 'cliff' notes



▶ Boehner knows his way around the White House.

CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Obama, Boehner 'cliff' meet again

President Barack Obama and top Republican John Boehner met at the White House yesterday as hopes rose that Washington will be able to head off steep tax hikes and spending cuts that could push the economy into recession next year.

The 45-minute meeting is a further sign that talks to avert the "fiscal cliff" could be yielding progress after weeks of stalemate, and aides from both parties said they were optimistic that a deal could be reached in coming days.

"We're getting close," said one Democratic aide who added, however, that a deal is not imminent.

Although both sides still had major differences, investors were cheered by signs of progress. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was up 0.95 percent at midday.

"The fiscal cliff is starting to get ironed out," said Frank Davis, director of sales and trading at LEK Securities. **REUTERS**

Home on the rage

Israel OKs 1.5K more settlement homes

Israel approved plans to build 1,500 more Jewish settler homes in east Jerusalem yesterday, an official said, days after provoking international protests against a project for another 3,000 such homes on land it captured in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Washington had condemned the latest plans, for ultra-Orthodox neighborhood Ramat Shlomo. Palestinians see the settlements as obstacles to achieving independent statehood. **REUTERS**

▶ Israel and Palestine

JAAFAR ASHTIYEH/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Elephants gone wild

Nepal soldiers hunt for killer elephant

Soldiers in Nepal are on the hunt for a wild elephant after it strayed into villages in the southern part of the Himalayan nation and killed four people in three months, officials said yesterday.

The elephant walked into a thatched house in Gardi village adjoining Chitwan National Park, 50 miles south of Kathmandu on Saturday, pulled an elderly couple from bed and trampled them to death, said Shiva Ram Gelal, assistant district administrator from Bharatpur, the closest city. **REUTERS**

Can we talk about this?

Iran: Stalemate on nukes must end

Iran's foreign minister said on Monday a way must be found to end the deadlock with major powers over its nuclear program, an Iranian news agency reported, but he offered no new initiative on how to achieve this.

Ali Akbar Salehi's comments came ahead of an expected resumption of diplomacy, perhaps next month, aimed at preventing the decade-old nuclear dispute from degenerating into a Middle East war that could damage an already fragile world economy.

Israel has threatened military action to prevent its arch-enemy from acquiring nuclear weapons. Iran denies any such goal. **REUTERS**

1 Israel is believed to be the region's only nuclear-armed power.

Don't try to 'friend' him

Iranian leader 'likes' Facebook

Facebook has an unlikely new member: Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Launched a few days ago, the Facebook page "Khamenei.ir" displays photographs of the 73-year-old cleric alongside speeches and pronouncements by the man who wields ultimate power in the Islamic Republic.

While there are several other Facebook pages already devoted to Khamenei, the new one appeared to be officially authorized, rather than merely the work of admirers.

Both U.S-based social media sites are blocked in Iran by a wide-reaching government censor, but they are still commonly used by millions of Iranians. **REUTERS**

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NASA-Approved LASIK - Our all-laser, bladeless LASIK at New England Eye Center has greatly improved results and helped take the fear out of having LASIK. The vast majority of our LASIK and PRK patients now achieve 20/20 vision at distance without glasses or contact lenses. Our method of LASIK is the same type approved for NASA astronauts and military pilots.

Implantable Contact Lens - New England Eye Center is among a select group of practices in the country offering patients the benefits of the Visian Implantable Collagen Lens (ICL). Unlike LASIK, the Visian corrects vision by inserting a delicate intraocular lens-like device atop the eye's natural lens, which is why the Visian is also referred to as the 'Implantable Contact Lens.' All of the refractive surgeons at New England Eye Center are qualified and experienced in performing this brief outpatient procedure to insert the Visian ICL. Because no corneal or other tissue is removed in the Visian ICL procedure, visual recovery is extremely rapid and the ICL can potentially be replaced if the eye's focus changes over time.

Refractive Lens Exchange - If you're frustrated with reading glasses and bifocals, our refractive specialists perform a procedure known as Refractive Lens Exchange. By replacing your eye's aging natural lens with a Intraocular Lens Implant customized specifically for your visual needs - and your lifestyle - allowing you to see better, look younger and never have to worry about developing cataracts!

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the best of 2012: nightlife & culture

▶ Big crowds are what you're in for at the Lincoln Tavern.

ERIK BALDASSARI/METRO

The best of 2012: Culture and nightlife

Best bar for pretending you're a robber baron:

Saloon
255 Elm St., Somerville
617-628-4444
www.saloondavis.com
With its leather-seated, wood-paneled decor, 19th-century newspaper-looking menus with items like Roasted Cornish Game Hen and Duet of Rabbit and a staggering 120 varieties of whiskey, this bar beneath the Davis Square Theater is a time machine straight back to turn-of-the-century New York City saloons, only with much better sanitation policies. It's a great place to express your views on the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine, pretend social Darwinism is still a good, untested idea or just shout "I drink your milkshake!" in your best Daniel Plainview voice.

▶ A bartender mixes up a Saloon Sour at Saloon.

'Best of' series

All week long, Metro will be highlighting our selections of the city's best — from dining spots to health and beauty oases — of 2012. Check back tomorrow for our picks in retail and fashion.

Easiest bar not to be able able to find, but worth it when you do:

Backbar
9 Sanborn Ct., Somerville
617-718-0249
www.backbarunion.com
And just like that, the coolest bar in the city opened, with this cocktail-nerd/Somerville hipster spot!

Most likely place to make Harvard Square hip again:

The Sinclair
52 Church St., Cambridge
617-451-7700
www.sinclaircambridge.com
OK, so Harvard Square isn't totally unhip. It's home to some of Boston's great independent shops and restaurants, but its status is increasingly threatened by bland national chains. (Did we really need another Panera?) Luckily, last week's opening of this upper-mid-level rock club, booked by independent agency The Bowery Presents, is a shot in the arm for the Square's cool, which will be ratified when Mission of Burma plays the venue in January.

Bar you most wish was actually your apartment:

Hawthorne
500 A Comm. Ave., Boston
617-532-9150
www.thehawthornebar.com
The third entry in the Hotel Commonwealth cocktail takeover opened this year, and the inside lounge looks cozy enough to live in — if just to put your feet up on the nice furniture!

Best bar to listen to vinyl and drink the equivalent in cocktails:

Brick and Mortar
569 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-491-0061
www.brickandmortarbar.com
Old-school cocktail classics meet old-school vinyl jams at this instant success that — we sort of hate to say it — has already made us forget about the dearly departed Enormous Room.

Least Chinatown-y Chinatown restaurant and bar:

Shojo
9A Tyler St., Boston
617-423-7888
www.shojoboston.com
Craft cocktails in Chinatown? It's an idea so crazy it just might work. It does, actually, at this hip-feeling oasis in a sea of rough-around-the-edges authenticity.

Best place to drink and throw heavy objects:

Lanes and Games
195 Concord Tpke., Cambridge
617-876-5533
www.lanesgames.com
We're talking about bowling balls, of course — any other heavy objects you throw here are your own problem. Lanes and Games isn't the only restaurant/bowling alley in the Boston area, and not the swankiest either, but it does feature a relative rarity: the New England tradition of Candlepin bowling, which uses smaller balls and pins, making for a more challenging game. But you're up to the challenge, right?

Best place to stand in line all night to get inside:

Lincoln Tavern
425 West Broadway Boston
617-765-8636
www.lincolnsouthboston.com
Who knew that a decent bistro-style restaurant would be popular in one of the densest 20-something neighborhoods in the city? Be prepared to stand in line. People are hungry for this sort of thing over there.

▶ Boogie until you can't see straight at ZuZu!

ERIK BALDASSARI/METRO

Best bar for pretending you're a writer:

Bukowski Tavern
1281 Cambridge St., Cambridge
617-497-7077
www.bukowskitavern.net
Any bar is a good place to pretend you're a writer, but this is the only one in town whose patron saint is the king of literary functional alcoholism: Charles Bukowski. Forget that he was from L.A.— his grizzled straight talk is totally compatible with the Bostonian mind-set.

Best bar to meet a real, living writer:

The Middlesex
315 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-868-6739
www.middlesexlounge.us
Not only will you probably see a Metro writer behind the bar here, but with so many different types of dance and live music nights, you're bound to run into writers from the Globe, the Dig and the Phoenix, too. Some will be spinning in the DJ booth, but many

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▶ Shojo has great food and great drink.

ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

▶ Lone Star is great, but leave the photography to the professionals here.

▶ Yes, this is really a bar in Magoun Square! It's Daddy Jones!

ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

Best new local spirit to get burnt by:

Grand Ten's Fire Puncher Vodka
www.grandten.com/makes/firepuncher.php
Vodka is so not hot right now, unless we're talking about this habanero-infused concoction from Boston's newest micro-distillers.

will just be kind of lurking in the dark corners, with their noses buried in a cocktail and/or a Twitter feed. Proceed with caution.

Best reason to actually go to Magoun Square now:

Daddy Jones
525 Medford St., Somerville
617-690-9095
www.daddyjonesbar.com
All the way over to Medford? Is this even Medford or Somerville? Do you need a helicopter to get there? If so, book a flight: This is instantly the cutest and most fun bar in the area.

Establishment with the best signature drink that seems way too easy to make:

Rosa Mexicano
155 Seaport Blvd., Boston
617-476-6122
www.rosamexicano.com
Yes, this new arrival in Boston is but a link in the Rosa Mexicano chain, with 15 locations in the most reliable metropolitan areas in the country. And yes, to make the delicious pomegranate margarita, the bartender simply pulls a lever on the same type of swirling frozen-drink machine that has made 7-Eleven famous.

Best new neighborhood for nightlife/bridge and tunnel crowd:

The Waterfront
While it's been in the works for years, this year saw the completion of Boston's Waterfront into the premier dining/peacocking destination, with a new oversized, overpriced tourist trap opening every other week.

But dang if that drink isn't worth every penny you spend on lots more food than you need after the bewitching combination of silver tequila, pomegranate and lime juices ruins your judgement. If you have more than one, you might want to book a room at any of the nearby hotels before you made another bad decision.

Best place to feel like you're on Cape Cod without crossing the bridge:

City Landing
255 State St., Boston
617-725-0305
www.citylanding.com
Never mind the fact that chef Bill Brodsky is known for making cuisine worthy of membership fees at the Wequassett Resort and Golf Club in Harwich, but when he and his crew moved into the space formerly occupied by Sel de la Terre, they brought a welcome Cape Cod flair to the waterfront. The cuisine, the decor and the drinks will almost make you feel out of place if you're not wearing boat shoes. That said, beware of the Docksider, because the combo of New England Corn Whiskey with cherry, lemon and honey mixers tastes like the shoe it was presumably named after. But the staff is so friendly that they offered us something different and didn't charge us for trying. Yeah, it was a little tough not to feel like a tourist.

Great drinks, but too dim to take a proper Instagram of them:

Lone Star
477 Cambridge St., Allston
617-782-8226
www.lonestar-boston.com
Everyone wants to take pictures of their cocktails now, but at this tiny, low-lit, cramped extension of the popular Deep Ellum, it's so dark you're just going to have to be content to drink all the tequila and mezcal like a normal person.

Best place to get really bitter:

West Bridge
One Kendall Sq., Cambridge
617-945-0221
www.westbridgerestaurant.com
No, not get bitter, like angry about the NHL not happening or something, but bitter in a good way. The best new cocktail bar in the Kendall area (and the cuisine is pretty amazing as well) isn't afraid to put something bitter in your glass.

Best place to do karaoke while sipping a killer cocktail:

Highland Kitchen
150 Highland Ave., Somerville
617-625-1131
www.highlandkitchen.com
The Courtside Lounge in Lechmere has the biggest book around, and they do have an amazing PBR pitcher and pizza deal, but the scene at the Highland with The People's Karaoke is more consistently uproarious. Every Wednesday, beginning at 10 p.m., you're likely to see the delicate balance of participants having a blast and goofing around and singers who will legitimately impress you. Plus, the Highland's Mark and Stormy cocktail (Maker's Mark, ginger beer and some spicy jalapeno concoction) will easily prime you to step up to the mic.

Best Saturday Night Fever:

ZuZu
472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-864-EAST
www.mideastclub.com
ZuZu's longtime dance night Soulelujah is still the hottest ticket in town to get your boogie on. White three-piece suit? Entirely optional.

Best place to get your flapper on:

Noir
One Bennett St., Cambridge
617-661-8010
www.charleshotel.com
Ah, the hooch, the Charleston or whatever it was those dapper flappers did on the dance floor. Time to make like Nucky Thompson and one of his floozies. Noir's Prohibition night is all about the roaring, scoring '20s.

Best place to get poetry slammed:

Lizard Lounge
1667 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
617-547-0759
www.lizardloungeclub.com
Central Square's Cantab Lounge has the more serious weekly slam each Wednesday, but that's exactly why we like the Lizard Lounge's alternative on Sunday nights — no reason you can't go to both! The atmosphere here is cooler, the crowd more intimate, the drink selection much better and there's a live jazz band backing up the feature act. But be ready to participate — you might just get roped into being a judge!

Best place where the toilet (almost?) outdoes the main attraction:

Mary Baker Eddy Library
200 Mass. Ave., Boston
888-222-3711
www.marybakereddylibrary.org
The terra cotta-tiled loos at the Mary Baker Eddy Library are a work of art and almost beat the Mapparium as a stunning installation. Every toilet should be this lucky.

Best reason to actually go downtown:

jm Curley
21 Temple Pl., Boston
617-338-5333
www.jmcurleyboston.com
Every bartender you know drinks here. What else do you need to hear?

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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

The big ol' babies of 2012

The past few days have been rough news-wise, so I'm going to dedicate today's column to some of the biggest celebrity babies who made their appearance this year. That's right: lots and lots of adorable, innocent, cute babies!

Who: Blue Ivy Carter
Parents: Beyonce and Jay-Z
Given the media attention surrounding the birth of Blue Ivy, it's pretty surprising the world didn't tip off its axis when she came into the world on Jan. 7.

Who: Samuel Affleck
Parents: Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck
The movie star duo welcomed its first son on Feb. 27. Not much is known about baby Sam, other than he'll probably be ridiculously good-looking and talented.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Look! Famous baby toesies!

Who: Jack Pratt
Parents: Anna Farris and Chris Pratt
Not a lot of fanfare was made about baby Jack's somewhat premature appearance on Aug. 25. Instead of appearing on any magicazine covers to showboat the news, new dad Chris Pratt tweeted this message to his followers: "It's a boy! Thanks for all your kind words. In lieu of gifts we ask that you mouth kiss a stranger."

Who: Edward Duke Rancic
Parents: Giuliana and Bill Rancic
After years of unsuccessful IVF treatments and a miscarriage and then a breast cancer diagnosis, the Rancic family finally had a bit of good news: Their baby Edward Duke was born via a gestational carrier on Aug. 29.

Who: Tennessee Toth
Parents: Reese Witherspoon and Jim Toth
The baby, whose name still sounds like a brand of whiskey to me, was born on Sept. 27.

Who: Maxwell Johnson
Parents: Jessica Simpson and Eric Johnson
After following the longest pregnancy known to man, Simpson finally birthed baby Maxi on May 1. And now she's allegedly pregnant again. That, or maybe she's just constantly gestating.

The first Simpson bump — not to be confused with her current one

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@HackedOffHugh
Taking gooner nephew to Emirates. Thanks to all Walcotts. Will try not to start ruck.

@ZacharyQuinto
lately been feeling like the disgruntled child of divorced parents twitter and instagram. pull it together you guys. this is embarrassing.

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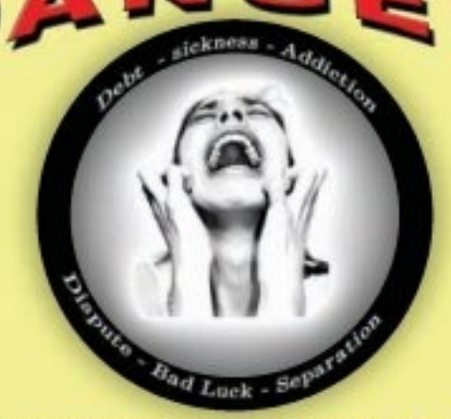

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UNUSUAL FUNCTION	$40,000	GRUEN	$1,200
UNUSUAL SHAPE	$8,000	HAMILTON	$250
CHIMING	$120,000	ILLINOIS	$1,500
CHRONOGRAPH	$17,000	MOVADO	$2,500
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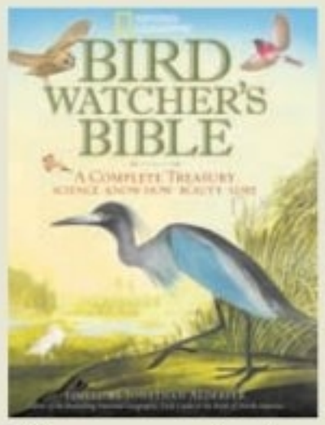
mybooks

Books for the randoms on your list

- Gifts for close family members and friends are easy to buy
- But what about that weird cousin you haven't seen in three years?
- There's a book out there for every question mark on your shopping list

For the aunt who loves animals

'The Big New Yorker Book of Dogs'
Foreword by Malcolm Gladwell
This excellent, handsome and hefty compendium of all things canine (cartoons, essays, poems, humor pieces and more) is culled from the famed magazine's archives.

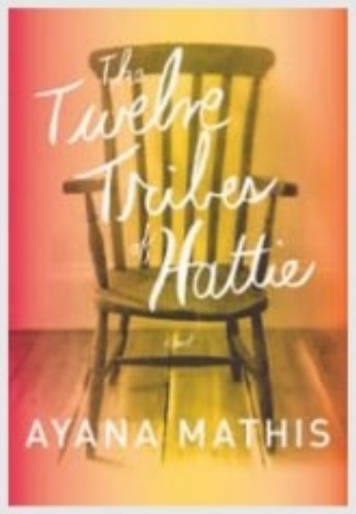


The nature-loving father-in-law

'Bird Watcher's Bible: A Complete Treasury'
Edited by Jonathan Alderfer
Even for nonbirders, the "Bird Watcher's Bible" is a surprisingly readable and interesting collection of interesting bird facts, how-to hints, folklore and history. The beautiful illustrations are a treat to gaze upon.

Your brother's new girlfriend

'The Twelve Tribes of Hattie'
by Ayana Mathis
Don't know anything about this strange newbie who will be attending Christmas dinner with your family? Don't despair: "The Twelve Tribes of Hattie" is Oprah's new book club book, meaning it's a book she'll be familiar with — after all, everyone knows Oprah. (And if she doesn't, there's a problem.)

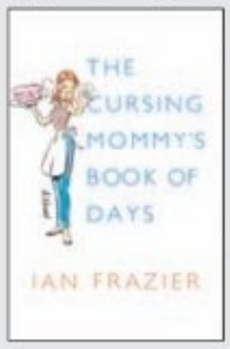


That one cousin you know nothing about

'The Chinese Takeout Cookbook'
By Diana Kuan
Everyone eats Chinese food. But you can't wrap up General Tso's and put it under a tree. "The Chinese Takeout Cookbook" is full of recipes that anyone can whip up, even if you're unsure of your cousin's cooking ability — or name.

The fun mother-in-law

'The Cursing Mommy's Book of Days'
by Ian Frazier
This hilarious "diary" written in the voice of a frazzled, tipsy woman, known as the Cursing Mommy, will be an apt gift for any family member who has a sense of humor — or a slight cursing problem.



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TV watch list

'The Voice'

REALITY. America unceremoniously sends one singer home, while you better believe mentor judges Christina Aguilera and Cee Lo Green will get a fireworks display of a farewell as they temporarily leave the show to promote a new album (Xtina) and work on a sitcom for NBC ("The Lady Killer"). Oh, yeah — and a Season 3 winner will be announced! Terry McDermott, Cassadee Pope and Nicholas David vie for that $100,000 recording contract. **Season finale, 9 p.m., NBC**

'Ramsay's Christmas Cookalong'

SPECIAL. The only donkeys in this culinary-themed Christmas special hosted by hot-tempered "Hell's Kitchen" star Gordon Ramsay are the ones in the manger scene — not in his kitchen, for a change. **10 p.m., BBC America**

'Mankind: The Story of Us'

DOCUMENTARY. As man conquers new frontiers in the 19th and 20th centuries, war and devastating effects on the environment are results. Will humans survive? Guess you have to watch! **Season finale, 9 p.m., History Channel**

'NCIS: Los Angeles'

DRAMA. Spending Christmas at headquarters is at least better than spending Christmas on an aircraft carrier investigating the death of a fellow NCIS special agent, right? **9 p.m., CBS**

● **AMBER RAY**

TYLER GOLDEN/NBC

▶ From left: Terry McDermott, Cassadee Pope and Nicholas David are the finalists on "The Voice."

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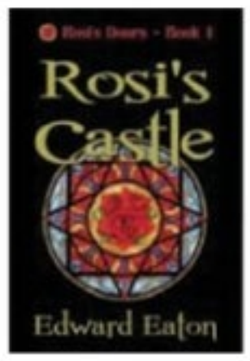

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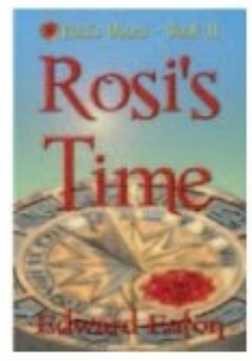

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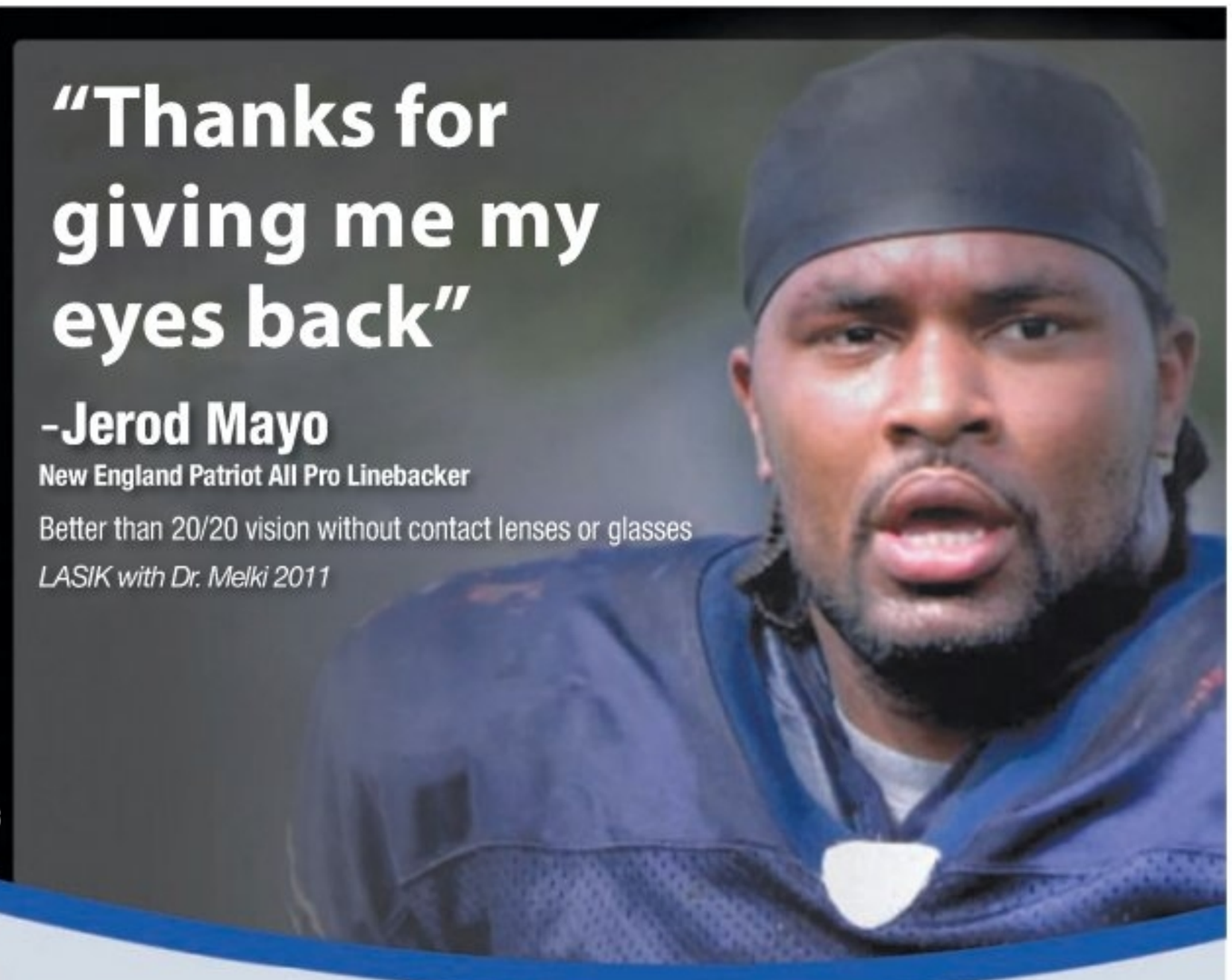

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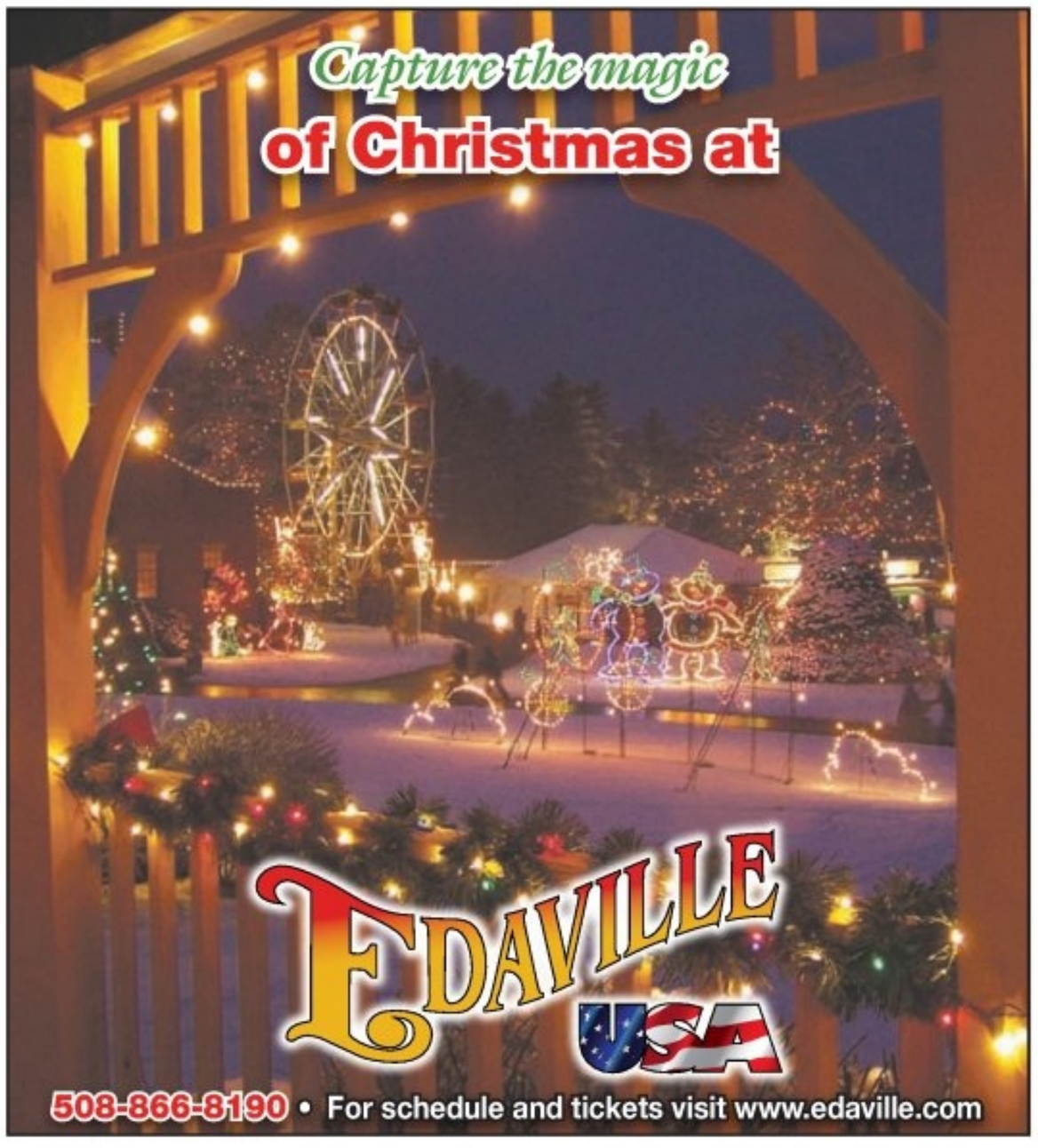

Put blended family drama on ice this holiday season

The calendar for the holiday season fills up fast, both with festive gatherings and all the preparations for them. It can be challenging to find time for everything — and when you're dealing with the conflicting demands that come with today's blended families, those challenges can seem insurmountable.

In order to make sure both you and your ex feel that time is shared fairly, you have to start with figuring out what "fair" means to everyone involved, says Katie Dunleavy, assistant professor of communication at La Salle University.

"Is 'fairness' about dividing holiday time equally, or are particular events more important to one parent or the other?" she asks. For instance, if one parent's family tradition is that Christmas Eve dinner is the highlight of the holiday, he or she might be fine with not seeing the kids at all on Christmas Day. For others, dividing the day in half may feel fair.

Dunleavy stresses the importance of talking honestly with your ex about how you're feeling. "It is likely that there will be feelings of guilt, loneliness and possibly annoyance when making decisions about spending time with family members on holidays," she says. "Acknowledging these feelings to others won't eliminate the problem, but it will alleviate some of the emotions attached."

What if there is an event that both parents want to attend, like a school play or a religious service? Dunleavy says they should put aside their conflicts for the length of the event. "As the children grow up, there will be future events — graduations, weddings — that require that both parents be in same vicinity and share in the celebration."

Don't feel crummy!
Holidays can be tough for step-families.
RON CHAPPLE STUDIOS

Quote

"Don't ask children to decide who they want to spend time with. It puts way too much pressure on them. This can lead to feelings of guilt for younger children; older children may use it as an excuse to disconnect with the family as a whole."
KATIE DUNLEAVY

JUDY WEIGHTMAN
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Letters

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The times are a-changin' — so must gun control

If Adam Lanza had walked into the Newtown elementary school with a machete or a baseball bat or a bow and arrow, he could not have caused the destruction of human life which he did with an assault rifle. I believe we will learn that he discharged hundreds of rounds in his spree.

Experience has taught us that people like Lanza exist and that they are difficult to detect. But we have to see that our national posture toward availability of guns has a significant affect on the destruction these kinds of people can cause.

This posture seems to be a presumption that persons can only be denied access to guns for cause. This is based on the constitutional notion of maintaining a militia. I would suggest that we should reverse this presumption and assume that a person be granted access to guns only for significant cause. A claimant would have to show that he or she is eminently qualified for the position of militia before being granted the opportunity to possess a gun and overwhelmingly and peculiarly qualified to be the possessor of several guns.

At Virginia Tech and the Aurora, Colo., 30 to 50 people were shot. If the shooter had access only to a switch blade, the statistic would have been radically different.

PAUL KELLEN, VIA E-MAIL

After the tragedy in Newtown, Conn., enough is enough. The list of rationalizations for these heinous acts grows ever longer: bullied in school, addiction, unrequited love, personality disorder, overbearing parents, abuse as a child, job loss, bigotry and more. Sadly, too many Americans believe: We will fear no evil because we have guns in our homes. But the perpetrator of the next horrendous act might be there, also. **GLENN HAYES, VIA E-MAIL**

As a substitute teacher, I am aware that the joy of seeing the "Ah ha!" moment will remain my joy of teaching, but I am painfully aware that the safety of students is not based on the "fire drill" that I grew up with. Sadly, we now have the "lockdown." Times have changed, and now is the "Selma" of our times. Now is the time to change: how we deal with gun control and the rights of the Second Amendment; how we deal with mental health and the right to get help without shame; how we deal with the balanced budget and the right of our troubled citizens to have mental health care; how we as a society deal with this tragedy and keep our right to be safe and well. In 1965, voting rights policy changed with the lives lost in Selma, Ala.; in 2012, let gun control and mental health policies change with the lives lost in Newtown, Conn. Eleanor Roosevelt said, "We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face ... we must do that which we think we cannot." We must change our policies for the sake of our children and generations to come. I demand that history show when the time came, when events changed everything — especially for our children — that we changed.

JANICE WINSTON, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** For reasons over which they'll have no control, the people whom you depend on might fail you. Your objective might be harder to reach on your own, but you'll handle it.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You might have to guard against doing things in half measures, but once you realize the stakes at play, hesitation won't be a problem.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** If you're not careful, you might be a trifle extravagant with your resources. This is acceptable, provided you aren't equally as generous with someone else's money.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** There is nothing wrong with having some fun and enjoying yourself, as long as you don't treat serious matters lightly — especially those pertaining to your career.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Be careful about what you tell others — because if you reveal the wrong things to the wrong person, instead of unburdening yourself it will create more trouble.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Be positive and build up your hopes, but also be realistic. If you aren't, all you'll do is make more misery for yourself. Don't use your imagination as an instrument of disappointment.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Something you thought to be shoo-in could prove far more difficult to pull off than anticipated. This can be an extremely rewarding day for you if you don't take anything for granted and put in the work.

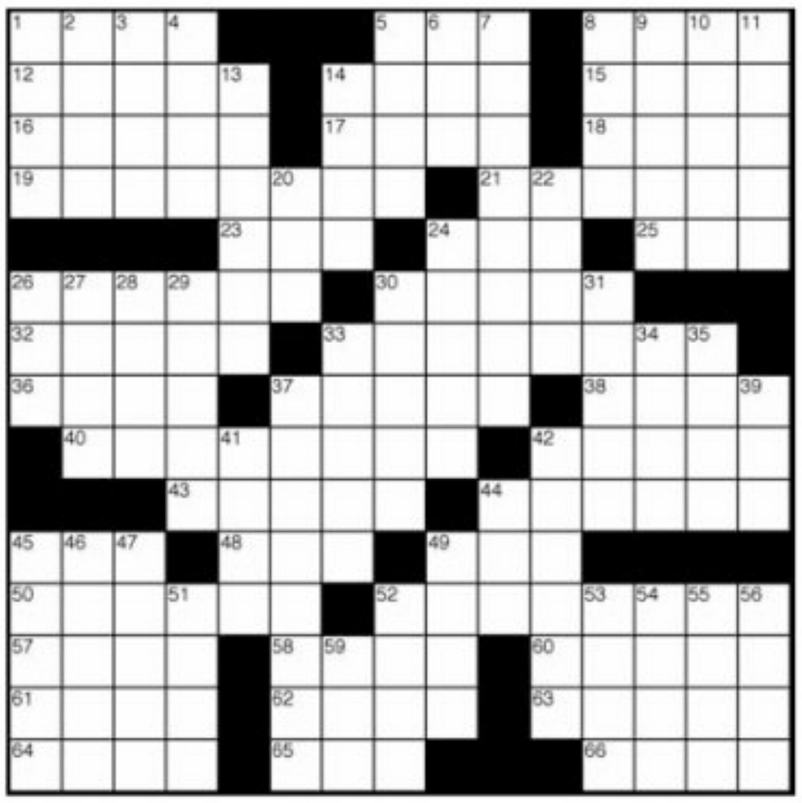
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** You don't want to hurt anybody's feelings, naturally, but it might be far kinder to be forthright instead of painting a rosy picture that leads to false expectations.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Certain commercial matters could prove to be far more complicated than they appear, so be prepared for anything. If you're cautions and prudent, you should do just fine.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If you start seeking an easy out, you might find only difficulty. By trying to duck challenges, you might only create more.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Usually, you're the type of person who likes to think a few steps ahead of the game. Keep it up, as careful forethought will be vital.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Your reasoning regarding a joint matter is likely to be a shade sounder than that of your counterpart. Listen to his or her views, because one could be good — but don't discount your judgment. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**



Across
1 Wedding-cake layer
5 Lingerie buy
8 Feel concern
12 Portends
14 Is on the go
15 "Aquarius" musical
16 Clean the floor
17 Greasy-spoon fare
18 The younger Guthrie
19 Cooks fish, maybe
21 Paddled
23 Crack pilot
24 — Lanka
25 PBS "Science Guy"
26 Tote the irons
30 Diving birds
32 Strut with pride
33 Bowl break
36 Vex
37 Unusual sighting
38 Some little piggies
40 Address parts (2 wds.)
42 Girl at a ball
43 Whale finder
44 Unassuming
45 Yes, to Angus
48 Come to a conclusion
49 Way back when
50 Sign after Taurus
52 Consulting oneself, perhaps
57 Left Bank chums
58 Swerve
60 Gene Autry movie
61 Relate
62 Miss Cinders of the comics
63 "Lohengrin" or "Tosca"
64 Former Clannad singer
65 P.O. service
66 Nudge forward

Down
1 Cough syrup meas.
2 Corn Belt state
3 Idyllic spot
4 Coral habitat
5 Ewe plaints
6 Hwys.
7 Oscar winner Dame Peggy —
8 Biggers' sleuth
9 Burr or Copland
10 Hoosier poet
11 Wash away
13 Ankle injury
14 Clarified butter
20 Hard water?
22 "— She Sweet"
24 Boot bottoms
26 EMT technique
27 Desert st.
28 Sub seller
29 Vast waters
30 Weaker, as an excuse
31 Located
33 Surfer wannabe
34 Burrower
35 Underwater shockers
37 Plotter
39 Congeal
41 "Fargo" director
42 Slight injury (hyph.)
44 "Leo the Lion" studio
45 Form of quartz
46 Gulf nation
47 A Bronte sister
49 Emanation
51 "La — Bonita"
52 Blend
53 Reindeer herder
54 Cato's route
55 Orchid-loving Wolfe
56 June celebrant
59 Pixie

9			6				5	
		4	9		1			8
	6		8	3				4
4				7				
	9	5		1		8	4	
				2				3
3				8	4		9	
6			2		5	3		
	2				3			5

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

9	5		7			4		
	7	3		2				1
		6			1		7	
6		5		8	4			
				7				
			1	6		8		5
	6		2			3		
1				5		7	8	
		4			9		5	6

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

M	O	W	E	D	■	A	V	G	■	V	O	C	A	L
A	L	A	M	O	■	N	E	O	■	E	L	O	P	E
Y	E	S	T	E	R	D	A	Y	■	R	I	O	T	S
O	O	P	■	■	A	Y	L	A	■	B	O	L	L	S
■	■	■	H	A	N	S	■	■	M	E	S	S	Y	■
T	A	T	A	M	I	■	L	E	A	N	■	■	■	■
S	M	A	R	T	S	■	L	A	R	A	M	I	E	■
E	A	R	P	■	■	B	A	T	■	■	U	N	D	O
■	H	O	O	D	L	U	M	■	B	E	G	G	E	D
■	■	■	■	E	T	N	A	■	L	E	G	E	N	D
■	W	O	U	N	D	■	■	W	I	L	Y	■	■	■
T	H	A	T	S	■	P	R	I	M	■	■	B	Y	E
B	I	T	T	E	■	R	A	P	P	E	L	L	E	D
S	T	E	E	L	■	O	R	E	■	K	A	U	A	I
P	E	R	R	Y	■	D	A	D	■	E	X	E	R	T

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destinations

I love New York (skiing)

Colorado's great, don't get us wrong — but there are plenty of good slopes in the Empire State We've rounded up some you should check out, plus deals each is having

WINDHAM MOUNTAIN

Hit the slopes at Windham Mountain.

Whiteface Lake Placid
www.whiteface.com
The Adirondacks are host to Whiteface Lake Placid — the highest ski mountain in the east (4,867 feet), featuring the greatest vertical drop in the east (3,430 feet). Of the 86 trails, you can ski the very ones that racers did during the 1980 Olympics — and because nearby Lake Placid still has its sports and ski jumping complexes intact, you can see those as well (or use your afternoon to go tubing or ice skating). Take a breather from the slopes at Lake Placid's cozy eateries and outlet shops, and before you leave, do a lap around the frozen Mirror Lake in a dogsled.
Day rates: Adults: $84, teens/seniors: $69, junior: $55, 70+: $38
Deals: Buy two days of skiing and two days of lodging and get the third day and night free. Fourth and fifth day/night free packages are also available. On Wednesdays, bring any unopened Coca-Cola product and get a lift ticket for $42.

Ski West Mountain
www.skiwestmountain.com
Forty-five minutes north of Albany, Ski West Mountain has 40 trails and a six-lane snow tubing park — one chute is 1,000 feet long with a 100-foot vertical drop. Just stopping by? A two-hour ticket is $27.
Day rates: Weekdays/ nonholidays (eight hours): Adults/teens: $42, youth/college/military: $37, seniors: $20, 70+: $5
Weekends/holidays (eight hours): Adults: $52, teens/youth: $32, college/military: $49, seniors: $39, 70+: $5
Deals: The Learn to Ski 3 package for newbie skiers gets you three lessons, three equipment rentals and three lift tickets for $99. In January, the deal drops to just $25.

Gore Mountain
www.goremountain.com
The most terrain in New York State is at Gore, which has four summits and trails facing north, east and south. Ski Magazine recently voted it a top 10 in the east for value, lifts and overall satisfaction.
Day rates: Monday-Wednesday, **nonholiday:** Adults: $59, teens/seniors: $49, juniors: $35
Thursday-Sunday, nonholiday: Adults: $75, teens/seniors: $59, juniors: $40
Deals: January 7-13's Take Your Kids to Gore Week means that sons and daughters 19 and under ski, ride and tube for free with a full-paid parent. Gore Mountain also participates in the Wednesday Coca-Cola promotion.

Hunter Mountain
The Northern Catskills spot has added two new gladed trails this season. Three separate mountains means plenty of options for beginner skiers.
Day rate: Midweek: Adults, $60, Young adults (13-18), $54, Juniors/seniors, $39, 70+, $15, Toddlers (6 and under), free
Weekend/holidays: Adults, $70, young adults (13-18), $63, juniors/seniors, $48, 70+, $20, toddlers (6 and under), $10
Deals: Pre-buy your tickets and gear at Hunter's eSki shop to save.

Windham Mountain
www.windhammountain.com
Here is where you'll find the most snowmaking within a 200-mile radius of Central Park. There are 49 total trails, five terrain parks, plus tubing and an ice rink, all in the quaint town of Windham.
Day rates: Weekdays/ nonholidays: Adults: $52, young adults (13-17): $45, juniors: $37
Weekends/holidays: Adults: $72, young adults (13-17): $65, juniors: $58
Deals: During the mountain's College Week (Jan. 7-11), Windham is offering $25 lift tickets for students with ID.

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Metro's NBA power rankings | by Jimmy Toscano

GETTY IMAGES

1 THUNDER (19-4)
Oklahoma City maintains its top spot. Going into last night against the Spurs, the Thunder haven't lost since Nov. 23 against Boston. In those 10 wins, Kevin Durant has been the game's high scorer eight times, narrowly missing it twice by just one point. Make no mistake, he's the best player in the West.

2 KNICKS (18-5)
Linsanity returned to New York City last night, but it's pretty clear the Knicks don't miss the point guard all that much. New York was 9-1 over its last 10 games and was still undefeated at home.

3 SPURS (19-6)
Scary collision between the Spurs' Manu Ginobili and the Celtics' Chris Wilcox on Saturday. Ginobili suffered a thigh contusion and missed last night's game. No word on if David Stern will fine the Spurs.

4 CLIPPERS (17-6)
The Clippers are back and are without question the best team in Los Angeles. They've ripped off nine wins in a row, five of which were by 18-plus points. You expect that against Sacramento, Phoenix and Toronto, though.

5 HEAT (15-6)
LeBron James is averaging 25.4 points and 6.7 assists per game. The Heat lost at home against the Warriors, but did find a way to beat the Wizards the second time around.

6 WARRIORS (16-8)
Ladies and gentlemen ... your surprise team of the season! It's amazing what health can do for a team. Mark Jackson has his squad playing the best basketball Golden State has seen since the Chris Mullin days.

7 GRIZZLIES (15-6)
The Grizzlies snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Utah on Saturday. Sure, they've fallen off a bit after their scorching hot start, but this team is built for the postseason.

8 HAWKS (14-7)
The Hawks continue to play solid basketball and remain a threat in the East, but were blown out at home by the Golden State Warriors on Saturday. Luckily nobody in Atlanta really cares or was there to actually see it.

9 BULLS (13-9)
Joakim Noah is averaging a double-double and taking on a bigger role without Derrick Rose. The Bulls are winning with defense, because they have no other choice.

10 NETS (13-10)
Life without Brook Lopez was tough for the Nets, who went just 2-5 in his absence. But even with his return, they barely squeaked out a win over the Pistons in two overtimes.

11 PACERS (13-11)
The Pacers are by no means ready to roll with the big boys (see above), but it's nice to see them stringing wins together. Don't forget, these guys were thought to be real contenders in the East in the preseason.

12 T'WOLVES (12-9)
Christmas comes early in Minnesota, as Ricky Rubio — not dressed as Santa Claus, contrary to reports — is back in action. The 22-year-old point guard will come off the bench until he works his way into the starting lineup.

13 BUCKS (12-10)
The Bucks are playing decent basketball, but with two star guards set to hit the free-agent market, they could be active at the trade deadline.

14 CELTICS (12-11)
Just when you think (again) that Boston is getting it together, they go to Texas and get handled by the Rockets and Spurs. Recent history shows that this is a second-half team, however.

15 NUGGETS (13-12)
The Nuggets are fighting to keep their heads above water, and a hard-fought win against the Grizzlies proves they are still legit. They'll play a Spurs team tonight that just came from Oklahoma City last night.

WWW.METRO.US/SPORTS » ALL 30 NBA RANKINGS

In the news

Steroids found
Garrett Reid, the son of Eagles coach Andy Reid, had anabolic steroids in his room the day he died from a fatal heroin overdose, according to a Pennsylvania prosecutor. Reid was helping the team's strength and conditioning coach at the time of his death. The Northhampton district attorney said there was no evidence that Reid was giving steroids to Eagles players. METRO

Celtics look to salvage rough trip at Chicago

Power outage

The C's have struggled in scoring points since a 108-100 win over OKC on Nov. 23.

In non-overtime games since the OKC victory, the Celtics have been unable to crack the 100-point mark.

The Celtics are 7-3 this season when scoring 100 points or more.

Rajon Rondo hasn't scored more than 20 points since a 22-point outing against San Antonio on Nov. 21. He had just six points against the Spurs Saturday night.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Rajon Rondo

The Celtics typically know they'll be in for a rugged game when they meet former assistant coach Tom Thibodeau and the defensive-minded Bulls.

When Boston tangles with Chicago tonight at the United Center (8 p.m. CSN), however, the C's will attempt to replicate the performance they pumped out back on Nov. 12 of this year when they scored 33 points in the first quarter en route to a 101-95 victory.

In the first meeting, it certainly helped that the Bulls were forced to start Nate Robinson at the point with Kirk Hinrich out with a bad hip and former NBA MVP Derrick Rose "still a ways away" from even practicing. Rajon Rondo took full advantage of the Bulls' situation that night, scoring 20 points and dishing out 10 assists. He fell just short of a triple-double, with nine rebounds. MATT BURKE

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How the Sox 'Drew' it up

Red Sox keep it in the family with signing of free agent Drew to provide temporary solution at short

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Stephen Drew

J.D. Drew has long been the butt of jokes for Red Sox fans frustrated with fragile baseball players who seemingly lacked emotion.

Forgive, then, many Boston hardball fans who yesterday snickered when the news came out that the Red Sox had signed J.D.'s brother, Stephen Drew, to a one-year, $9.5 million deal, according to CBS Sports.

Stephen Drew made his MLB bones with the Diamondbacks, churning out several solid years in Arizona from 2006-2012. The shortstop had his best season in 2008, hitting 21 home runs with an OBP of .333 in 152 games.

Conventional thinking says that the Red Sox will now keep prized shortstop prospects Jose Iglesias and Xander Bogaerts in the minors for the 2013 season with Drew as the stop-gap.

The 29-year-old Drew was dealt from Arizona to Oakland this past August and had marginal success with the A's as he batted .250 with five homers and 16 RBIs in 39 games.

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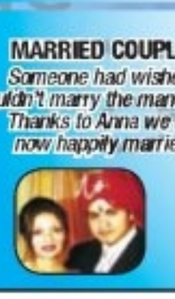

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